

Amherst Fire Department Fiscal Year 2002

September 11, 2001 will forever be etched in the memories of firefighters as the day when 343 of our brother firefighters in New York City made the supreme sacrifice doing what they did best – saving lives and protecting property. That credo drives firefighters everywhere in the world to do their utmost for the citizens they are sworn to protect, including sacrificing themselves, and that applies to Amherst's firefighters as well.

Our total emergency activity level increased again over FY 01 levels, by 4%. No lives were lost in Amherst due to fire incidents in FY 02, but 9 civilians and 8 firefighters were injured during the 153 actual fires which were extinguished by the Fire Department.

Lindsay Stromgren was promoted to the rank of Assistant Fire Chief. Following the retirements of Patrick Brock and Senior Captain Tim Atteridge, Jeffery Olmstead and David Miner were appointed to the rank of captain after competitive examinations.

Firefighter/paramedic Brian Meadows resigned to return to Connecticut. The appointments of David Bennett, Chad Delude and Wardwell Cox as firefighter/paramedics brought the Department to a full complement of career staff (40). We now have 22 paramedics, with two in training.

Our fire safety education efforts (SAFE) in the schools (including Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury) continued its successful run in FY 02, due mainly to the dedicated leadership of Captain Tim Masloski and a handful of other firefighters and officers who deliver this high quality program. The state has discontinued funding for this program in FY 03, but we hope to find a way to support it through our current budget.

Our Search and Rescue Team expanded and continues joint and cooperative training with the Amherst Police. Assistant Chief Zlogar, Captain McKay and Firefighter Shanley coordinate this effort.

Firefighter Shanley also continued membership on the federal Urban Search and Rescue team, where his personal dog, Scully, is trained for rescue of people trapped in collapsed structures. Firefighter Shanley also uses Scully for outside search and rescue with the Amherst team.

Captain McKay and Firefighter Shanley continued to coordinate our Tactical Medic squad, whereby specially trained firefighter/paramedics interact with police entry teams at civil disturbances. We now have 6 paramedics trained at the tactical level.

Firefighter Sell is a member of the area child fire setters intervention group, comprised of local firefighters who receive special training in recognizing and treating children who exhibit fire-setting behavior.

Captain Sterling continued his efforts to establish a Tactical Rescue Team, providing confined space and rope rescue programs during the year. He also taught a firefighter safety course to all our personnel.

Captains Childs and Olmstead assist with our emergency medical services program through continuing education programs for our personnel, CPR and re-certification courses, and equipment and supplies procurement. Every year, the Department maintains the staff's EMT basic, intermediate and paramedic skills, education credits, or First Responders certification as mandated by the state; this is a massive undertaking.

Captain Johnson oversees the Department's self-contained breathing apparatus maintenance program, while Firefighters Adair, Theilman and Dion maintain the Department's vehicle fleet. They save the Town thousands of dollars in repair costs by their labor and through their preventative maintenance actions.

The student volunteer force expanded the number of hours they remained in service at the North Station staffing their pumper, from 56 hours weekly to 118. The additional in-service hours increased their training time from 3 hours weekly to as much as 6 hours.

The Coolidge Bridge construction process, at times, mires traffic. We have had concerns that our ambulances would be trapped on one side of the river or the other when it was time-critical for them to be at the hospital or return to town to answer another medical emergency. The project was supposed to have a sophisticated traffic management program that would allow state troopers working from their headquarters in Northampton nights and weekends to clear traffic out of the way for our ambulances. This computerized system is still not in operation. During the regular work week, police officers stationed at the bridge clear traffic for us. Thus far, delays that have occurred have not hampered patient care, but our concern continues.

Another issue is the increasingly high number of fire prevention and construction inspections that we are mandated to perform by state statute or regulation. Inspection activity increased 27 % over FY 01. With the number of emergencies we answer each day, it is more difficult to assign line personnel to some of these tasks. Captains Johnson, Miner and three firefighters assist with specialized inspections on their off-duty time, but it is impossible for Assistant Chief Zlogar, who also manages the emergency medical services program, to keep pace with the number of inspections. We need to devote additional full-time resources to this effort.

A committee to study fire station locations is being appointed by the Town Manager to address the long response times for ambulances and fire apparatus to South Amherst.

We continue to have the smallest career firefighting force of any community of our size in the Commonwealth. The chief reason why we are able to continue to provide excellence in the delivery of EMS and fire services is that the career firefighters are augmented by 22 call and 36 student volunteer firefighters. We must continue to explore other funding options beyond taxation to minimally increase our career force, in order to maintain the availability of immediate emergency assistance at all times.

The citizens of Amherst are to be praised for individual fire prevention efforts throughout the year. Amherst's incidence of fires is well below the national and state averages. At the same time, the United States continues to lead the world in deaths, injuries and property damage from unwanted fires. I also want to salute the men and women of the Amherst Fire Department for their selfless devotion to duty. Firefighters David Dion and David Clooney received heroism awards from the Governor for arriving first at a fire in Hudson, Massachusetts last year. Firefighter Sarah Roe saved the life of a man in cardiac arrest on an international flight as she was returning from Ireland. And firefighters Bill Dunn and John Hannum rescued three persons down a ladder at an Amherst house fire. In this year of terrible tragedy in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, firefighters continue their work on the front lines, protecting and serving people in need.

Reports on fire and inspection statistics, emergency medical services, Department training, and the Call and Student Forces follow, authored by Assistant Chiefs Michael Zlogar and Lindsay Stromgren, and Call Deputy Chief Edward Mientka, Jr.

Keith Hoyle
Fire Chief

6 - YEAR STATISTICAL RECORD

	<u>FY 02</u>	<u>FY 01</u>	<u>FY 00</u>	<u>FY 99</u>	<u>FY 98</u>	<u>FY 97</u>
EMS RESPONSES	3361	3067	3055	2983	2627	2436
FIRE RESPONSES	1333	1426	1198	1099	984	1063
TOTAL:	4694	4493	4253	4082	3611	3499
FIRE PREVENTION	1911	1503	1503	1397	1942	2278
FIRE LOSS IN \$	438,350	342,285	423,800	439,715	378,723	289,537

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Requests for ambulance service increased almost 10% over FY 01. We now have 5 ambulances in the fleet, although usually we can staff only 3 or 4 with on-duty personnel. The availability of paramedics to provide advanced life support (ALS) services increased as well. Over 86% of the time, we had three paramedics or more on duty. Over 31% of all patients received ALS care.

We continue to provide EMS to Hadley, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury. These communities provide a flat fee for service per resident to share the cost of providing this service. The number of calls to these communities was 27% of the total of all EMS calls. The number of times we had more than one ambulance engaged on an emergency simultaneously continued to increase as well last year, including a record number of 57 times that 4 ambulances were tied up and 26 times that all 5 ambulances were being used.

In fact, in one of these incidents two ambulances from neighboring communities were used as well (7 ambulances engaged at one time).

Our new 12-lead defibrillators for paramedic care of heart patients went into service in February, and we placed ALS equipment on a fourth ambulance, which is now available for ALS care if we have sufficient personnel on duty.

We continue to monitor the impact of the Coolidge Bridge project on our ability to quickly access Cooley Dickinson Hospital and to just as quickly return an ambulance from CDH to Amherst in the event of multiple calls. Reconstruction of the Route 9 corridor between the bridge and Amherst next year will further exacerbate this situation.

The increasingly high number of EMS calls continues to stress our personnel, in terms of injuries on duty and the exposure to diseases. Our staff now has the highest number of emergency calls per firefighter west of the Route 128 beltway, which speaks to our efficiency but also raises concerns about injury rates and downtime.

FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

Engine 1:	2001 Emergency One 1500 gpm pumper
Engine 2:	1990 Emergency One 1500 gpm pumper
Engine 3:	1995 Central States 1500 gpm pumper
Engine 4:	1999 KME 1500 gpm pumper
Engine 5:	1976 Maxim 1000 gpm pumper
Ladder 1:	1988 LTI 105 foot aerial platform
Tanker:	1972 Military 6WD 1300 gallons (not yet in service)
A-11:	1994 Ford Cayel Craft ambulance
A-12:	2000 Navistar Horton ambulance
A-13:	1995 Ford Horton ambulance
A-14:	2001 Navistar Horton ambulance
A-15:	1997 Ford Horton ambulance
R-1:	1987 GMC light duty rescue truck
R-2:	2000 Ford F-350 4WD pick-up
R-3:	1985 GMC Suburban
R-4:	1985 Military 4WD brush truck
R-5:	1997 Dodge van
X-1:	2000 Ford Crown Victoria
X-2:	1998 Ford Explorer 4WD
X-3:	1995 Ford Crown Victoria
X-10:	1994 Ford Crown Victoria
Utility:	2001 John Deere AWD ATV

Number of EMS Responses by Location

	FY 98		FY 99		FY 00		FY 01		FY 02	
	Incidents	Percent	Incidents	Percent	Incidents	Percent	Incidents	Percent	Incidents	Percent
Amherst	1940	73.8%	1951	68.8%	2238	75.4%	2307	75.2%	1844	54.9%
Amherst College									62	1.8%
Univ. of Mass									476	14.2%
Hampshire College									26	0.8%
Hadley	528	20.1%	716	25.2%	537	18.1%	544	17.7%	740	22.0%
Leverett	42	1.6%	42	1.5%	62	2.1%	77	2.5%	83	2.5%
Pelham	44	1.7%	44	1.6%	54	1.8%	42	1.4%	44	1.3%
Shutesbury	40	1.5%	40	1.4%	46	1.5%	49	1.6%	43	1.3%
Belchertown									29	0.9%
Other Locations	33	1.3%	43	1.5%	14	0.5%	23	0.7%	14	0.4%
Paramedic Intercept					17	0.6%	26	0.8%		
Total	2627		2836		2968		3068		3361	

FY 02 EMS Level of Care

	Number	Percent
Basic Life Support	2312	68.79%
Advanced Life Support *	1049	31.2%
Total Patients	3361	

* ALS could not be separated into Intermediate and Paramedic.

FY 02 Ambulance Response Time (travel time after dispatch)

Location	Number of Responses	Response Time
Amherst	1290	4 min. 15 sec.
Amherst College	50	3 min. 10 sec.
Univ. of Mass.	371	4 min. 25 sec.
Hampshire College	23	7 min. 16 sec.
Hadley	577	8 min. 26 sec.
Pelham	39	7 min. 28 sec.
Leverett	68	10 min. 00 sec.
Shutesbury	34	11 min. 38 sec.
Belchertown	24	11 min. 38 sec.

FY 02 Paramedic Staffing

Number of Paramedics		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
July	Day Shift	0	0	1	1	14	13	2	0	0
	Night Shift	0	1	2	7	14	6	1	0	0
August	Day Shift	0	0	1	8	8	11	3	0	0
	Night Shift	0	0	1	4	16	10	0	0	0
September	Day Shift	0	0	1	0	9	8	11	1	0
	Night Shift	0	0	0	3	10	7	9	1	0
October	Day Shift	0	0	0	2	12	16	1	0	0
	Night Shift	0	0	1	5	8	17	0	0	0
November	Day Shift	0	0	0	4	9	15	1	0	1
	Night Shift	0	0	1	2	10	14	3	0	0
December	Day Shift	0	0	0	2	9	15	4	1	0
	Night Shift	0	0	1	1	10	14	5	0	0
January	Day Shift	0	0	0	2	12	12	5	0	0
	Night Shift	0	0	0	4	6	18	3	0	0
February	Day Shift	0	0	0	2	6	13	6	1	0
	Night Shift	0	0	0	2	9	14	3	0	0
March	Day Shift	0	0	0	3	9	15	4	0	0
	Night Shift	0	0	0	3	9	15	4	0	0
April	Day Shift	0	0	0	1	7	16	4	2	0
	Night Shift	0	0	0	2	8	10	8	2	0
May	Day Shift	0	0	2	7	8	7	5	2	0
	Night Shift	0	0	1	4	6	14	6	0	0
June	Day Shift	0	0	0	5	13	8	2	2	0
	Night Shift	0	0	1	5	16	4	4	0	0
1 st Quarter	Day Shift	0	0	3	9	31	32	16	1	0
	Night Shift	0	1	3	14	40	23	10	1	0
	Daily	0	1	6	23	71	55	26	2	0
		0.0%	0.5%	3.3%	12.5%	38.6%	29.9%	14.1%	1.1%	0.0%
2 nd Quarter	Day Shift	0	0	1	6	30	39	13	1	1
	Night Shift	0	0	2	10	28	38	12	1	0
	Daily	0	0	3	16	58	77	25	2	1
		0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	8.8%	31.9%	42.3%	13.7%	1.1%	0.5%
3 rd Quarter	Day Shift	0	0	0	8	30	42	10	1	1
	Night Shift	0	0	2	7	26	46	11	0	0
	Daily	0	0	2	15	56	88	21	1	1
		0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	8.2%	30.4%	47.8%	11.4%	0.5%	0.5%
4 th Quarter	Day Shift	0	0	0	7	27	40	15	1	0
	Night Shift	0	0	0	9	24	47	10	0	0
	Daily	0	0	0	16	51	87	25	1	0
		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.9%	28.3%	48.3%	13.9%	0.6%	0.0%
Total	Day Shift	0	0	5	37	116	149	48	9	1
		0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	10.1%	31.8%	40.8%	13.2%	2.5%	0.3%
	Night Shift	0	1	8	42	122	143	46	3	0
		0.0%	0.3%	2.2%	11.5%	33.4%	39.2%	12.6%	0.8%	0.0%

FY02 Patient Destinations

Patient Transported to:	Number of Trips
Cooley Dickinson Hospital	2329
Holyoke Hospital	15
Mary Lane Hospital	19
Bay State Medical Center	52
Franklin Medical Center	56
Athol Hospital	1
Mercy Hospital	1
Wing Memorial Hospital	3
Transferred to Helicopter	4

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES*
JULY 1, 2001 – JUNE 30, 2002

	<u>Town of Amherst</u>	<u>UMass</u>	<u>Amherst College</u>	<u>Hampshire College</u>
FIRES:				
Structure:	32	4	2	2
Vehicle:	15	0	0	0
Rubbish:	46	6	1	1
Brush:	23	1	2	0
Other:	38	9	2	1
RESCUE: (includes vehicle accidents)	176	6	2	3
HAZARDOUS CONDITION:	88	2	0	0
MALICIOUS FALSE ALARM:	33	18	10	1
SYSTEM MALFUNCTION:	155	26	19	6
GOOD INTENT CALL:	84	5	1	1
UNINTENTIONAL:	223	38	63	60
SERVICE CALL:	29	1	2	0
OTHER:	5	2	1	0
SUBTOTAL:	947	118	105	75

TOTAL FY 02 FIRE RESPONSES: 1,245

CATEGORIES OF RESPONSE

STILL ALARMS:	1,195
BOX ALARMS	36
RECALLS:	1

MUTUAL AID CALLS <u>TO</u> OUTSIDE COMMUNITIES:	13
MUTUAL AID CALLS <u>FROM</u> OUTSIDE COMMUNITIES:	1

FIRE LOSSES BY OCCUPANCY TYPE

<u>OCCUPANCY TYPE</u>	<u>DOLLAR LOSS</u>	<u>CIVILIAN INJURIES</u>	<u>FIREFIGHTER INJURIES</u>
Residential:	\$409,500	9	8
Colleges/Schools:	\$1,550	0	0
Commercial:	\$14,000	0	0
Health Care:	0	0	0
Vehicles:	\$12,200	0	0
Other:	\$1,100	0	0
Total:	\$438,350	9	8

* NOTE: During FY 02, the Fire Department began using new software to report fire incidents to the State Fire Marshall's Office. Consequently some types of fire incidents are now classified in different categories than previously reported.

Fire Prevention Program FY 02

Building Inspections

Home Inspections (Ch148, New Construction)	346	460	114
Multi-family dwellings (Ch148,s26C)	1	4	3
Construction Plan Reviews			
1 & 2 Family Residential	72	98	26
Commercial and Multi-family (3 or more units)	22	31	9
Amherst College	4	9	5
Hampshire College	4	4	0
University of Massachusetts	17	18	1
Fire Protection Sytems Installation & Alteration	27	16	(11)
Site Plan Reviews (Planning Board)	8	17	9

Life Safety Inspections

Restaurant Inspections	33	46	13
Nursing Homes & Rest Homes	8	8	0
Health Care Facilities	20	20	0
Inns and Theatres	8	20	12
Fraternity and Sorority	37	63	26
Public Schools	32	32	0
Private Schools	24	28	4
Childcare Facilities	20	28	8
Public Buildings	8	4	(4)
Other Buildings	2	4	2

Inspections and Permits

Oil Burner Installations	84	97	13
LPG Storage Installations	65	54	(11)
UST Removals	24	21	(3)
UST Installations	2	4	2
AST Installations		1	1
Tank Truck Inspections	10	2	(8)
Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Displays	5	5	0
Open Burning, residential (347 permits, 397 renewals)	846	744	(102)
Open Burning, agricultural (25 permits on file)	17	17	
			0

Public Education Programs

Open House	1	1	0
SAFE	73	73	0
Community Programs	15	8	(7)

Fire Training

During FY 02, the Fire Department continued with its goal of providing as much fire and rescue training as possible, given the time constraints faced by our crews every day. As in the past, we aimed for a combination of refresher training in the area of basic firefighting skills and training in a variety of new skills. Over the past year, we have seen an increased emphasis placed on specialized training, particularly in the areas of rescue and EMS. To meet the needs of the community, we have begun training small groups of firefighters in these specialized skills, so that they can respond as teams when needed. In response to the increased threat of domestic or international terrorism, we have also begun training in a number of areas related to preventing and mitigating terrorist or other incidents.

We continued to utilize the Massachusetts Fire Academy in Stow for a wide range of training, including both classroom and practical sessions. Our new Assistant Chief completed the ten-week Chief Fire Officer Management training program. Many career, call, and student firefighters attended other courses, including live-fire training, firefighter safety, and Incident Command. A number of call and student firefighters also participated in live-fire training at the Springfield Fire Department's burn building.

We were again privileged to have the National Fire Academy hold their New England Fire Service Training Weekend here at UMass in January. Sixteen members of the Department, representing all three forces, attended this officer-training weekend, taking a variety of courses taught by instructors from the National Fire Academy. The Massachusetts state weekend of training, typically offered at the National Fire Academy's campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland in April of each year, has been moved to September. Therefore no members were sent to Emmitsburg in FY 02; however a large contingent will be traveling to the National Fire Academy this coming September.

The Department again hosted a number of courses in our stations, taught by instructors from the Massachusetts Fire Academy. These courses are open to both Amherst Fire Department personnel and members from other Massachusetts departments. Courses hosted included Emergency Vehicle Operator training, Rapid Intervention Team training, Response to Terrorism, and a special workshop on how to deal with anthrax threats.

Specialized training included confined-space rescues, which were taught to the entire Career Force. Many individuals participated in a variety of other training, preparing themselves to be part of specialized response teams. This includes Arson Investigation, Juvenile Firesetters Intervention, Wilderness Search & Rescue, and Tactical Medics. Many of these specializations have resulted in an unprecedented amount of cross-training with area law enforcement agencies such as the Amherst Police Department and the UMass Police Department. To better prepare for future problems, and to become eligible for anticipated state grant money, we have begun training in a program known as "SATURN" (State Anti-Terrorism Unified Response Network). This state program brings fire, EMS, police and other agencies together to plan and prepare resources for a wide range of disasters. The next phase of this program is slated to begin this coming fall.

During FY 03, we hope to continue with all of the above-mentioned specialized training, while also devoting more time to refresher and advanced training in the area of structural firefighting and related topics affecting firefighter safety.

Call Force

Serving to augment the Department's Career Force, the Amherst Fire Department Call Force is trained and available to provide fire suppression and emergency medical services. The Call Force may be called in to respond to an immediate emergency or to cover at the station when full-time resources are committed to fire or emergency medical calls. During FY 02, the Call Force was dispatched into service a total of 142 times. This included 99 special calls and 43 box alarms. Additionally, while in service by special call, drill, or previous call, Call Force personnel were dispatched to 21 still alarms or other fire responses, and to 16 emergency medical calls. Fire response vehicles assigned to the Call Force are a 1988 LTI 100ft. aerial platform, and a 1999 KME pumper. The Call Force is authorized to have 22 members. Eleven members were qualified pump operators and 8 qualified to operate the LTI aerial. Twelve members were Massachusetts Registered Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Training weekly to state and national standards, comprehensive training is considered a paramount tenet of the Call Force. In addition to routine training, specialized courses included: ice rescue, confined space, wildland firefighting, flashover simulation, officer training, Life Flight, and a variety of emergency medical classes. Call Force members also presented pump operation classes, and a new recruit training program. In June, all members were awarded certificates from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy acknowledging completion of training to Firefighter 1 / NFPA 1001 standards. Selected members attended courses presented by the National Firefighting Academy. Live-burn exercises were conducted at the Springfield Fire Training Center. Special thanks go to Amherst College, UMass, and the towns of Pelham and Hadley, for making available a variety of structures for smoke simulation exercises.

This year saw significant personnel changes. After 25 years of service to the Fire Department, Captain Donald Erickson retired from the Call Force. Veteran Lieutenant Derrick Elmes resigned due to relocation, and Lieutenant Chad Delude was hired to the Career Force. Subsequently, Lieutenant Kevin Gladu was promoted to captain, while Call FF Nate Merritt and Call FF Michael Hawkins were both promoted to lieutenant.

Call Force members provided a variety of services, such as the Student Awareness for Fire Safety Education (SAFE) program graduation, the National Fire Prevention Week Open House, pumper stand-by details at fireworks, ambulance details at events, fire watch details, and burning permit inspections. The Call Force represented AFD in the New England Fire Chiefs Association parade in West Springfield. Captain Richard Mears again served as an instructor for the Hampshire County Fire Training Program and as a primary instructor for the Amherst Fire Department Student Firefighter training program. Rick also was a lead instructor for defibrillator, CPR, First Responder, and Call Force recruit training. Call firefighters appreciate the opportunity to proudly serve the Town of Amherst.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Mientka Jr.
Deputy Chief
Amherst Fire Department Call Force

Student Volunteer Force

The purpose of the Student Force, comprised of student volunteers from UMass and sometimes Amherst College, is to augment our career firefighters at major incidents or at times when all on-duty firefighters are committed to emergency calls. During FY 02, 9 students lived at the North Fire Station, while 19 others lived on campus or elsewhere in the community. When not in the station, students carry pagers and can be recalled in the event of an incident.

Student firefighters receive training comparable to that of call firefighters, although they are available only during the school year. Training is not at the same level of the career staff, especially for EMS, as our career firefighters all are paramedics or EMT-Intermediates. We do not expect that the students will function operationally like career staff, who are professional practitioners.

Student firefighters remaining in town over the summer or intersession can join the Call Force during this period and receive an hourly wage for their work.

Student firefighters staff a 1995 pumper, utilize the pick-up truck to ferry air bottles to an incident scene, establish the Department's firefighter "accountability" safety program at a scene, and respond with an ambulance as well.

In FY 02, student firefighters increased the number of hours they placed their pumper in service at the North Station, from 5pm to 7am during weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends. The number of hours each student trained per week also doubled as a result of the increased in-service times. During these in-service times, students may also place the reserve ambulance in-service, provided all career staff are engaged on other calls and provided there are qualified student EMTs available.

New in FY 02 was the automatic response of the Student Force pumper, during in-service times, to UMass, including fraternities and sororities, and to brush fires in town, accompanying the career force pumper. These responses increase proficiency of the student firefighters, readying them for actual fire scenarios, especially when career professionals may not be available immediately due to commitment at other emergencies.

Student firefighters responded to 145 incidents during FY 02, including 5 medicals. Seventeen new students were accepted into the program in April to replace graduating seniors. They attended 4 weekly drills before the semester ended in May.

All student firefighters must complete the 72-hour "Wonder Week" training program just prior to school starting in September. This program is conducted by career firefighters. Beginning in September, there is a mandatory 3-hour drill on Thursdays, and then each group trains separately for 90 minutes every time they place their pumper in-service during the week.

All officers (deputy chief, 2 captains, and 5 lieutenants) receive separate officer training. Assistant Chief Stromgren supervises and coordinates the training and operations of the student firefighters.

Training at the state and national fire academies also is available to student firefighters, and they take advantage of it. During FY 02, student firefighters attended the annual Massachusetts Firefighters Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Maryland, the Winter Fire College at Devens, Massachusetts, the New England Fire Service Weekend sponsored by all the New England state fire academies, and various courses at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow, Massachusetts.